Remarks

The Office Action mailed December 30, 2004 has been reviewed and the following remarks have been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-29 and 31-39 are now pending in this application. Claims 1-29 and 31-39 are rejected. Claim 30 has been canceled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer.

The rejection of Claims 1-6, 21-29, 31-33, and 38-39 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, is respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits that the specification meets the requirements of Section 112, first paragraph. Specifically, Applicant respectfully submits that the specification, including the figures, satisfies the written description requirement and places the inventor in possession of the invention.

The Office Action states on page 3, "Accordingly, Salas et al. do not describe or suggest restarting, by a programmable device...Nowhere in the specification it discloses the feature as claimed, or that could be read as such in the limitation as Applicant's argued. The specification mentions only a Power Builder that facilitates additions and is configured for creating points associated with selected devices..." Applicant respectfully traverses the statement on page 3.

Applicant respectfully submits that the specification, including the Figures, defines the invention described in Claims 1 and 21 with sufficient particularity so that one skilled in the art would recognize that the Applicant had possession of the claimed invention. Moreover, the claims as filed in the original specification are part of the disclosure (MPEP § 2163).

The specification describes, for example, on page 13, Claim 18, "computer displays a computer generated screen with a selectable Power Builder function". The specification, further describes, for example, on page 13, Claim 17,"A computer programmed to generate screens for the selected devices." The specification, also describes, for example, on page 14, claim 30, "wherein said step of generating main

2

menu screens further comprises the steps of…restarting the project". The specification, further describes, for example, in paragraph 30, "By selecting generating screens tab 234, the Power Builder automatically creates the points associated with the selected devices. In addition, a main menu screen is generated…A configuration update is performed and the project is restarted." The specification, describes, for example, in paragraph 44, "PMCS Power Builder 322 interfaces to a main menu screen to read a small faceplate for each configured PMCS device for a small faceplate file…and adds it to main menu file 332." Specifically, the specification describes a computer, which is a programmable electronic device, that displays a computer generated screen with a Power Builder function. The specification also describes that the computer generates screens for selected devices, where generating main menu screens includes restarting the project. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claims 1 and 21 under Section 112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

Claims 2-6 and 31-33 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2-6 and 31-33 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicant requests that the rejection of Claims 2-6 and 31-33 under Section 112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

Claims 22-29 and 38-39 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 21. When the recitations of Claims 22-29 and 38-39 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 21, Applicant requests that the rejection of Claims 22-29 and 38-39 under Section 112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claims 1-6, 21-29, 31-33, and 38-39 under Section 112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1-6, 21-29, 31-33, and 38-39 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action states on page 5 that "restarting, by a programmable device" as recited in Claims 1 and 21 could not be identified in the specification and

is indefinite. Applicant respectfully traverses the statement on page 5 of the Office Action.

Claims 1 and 21 include a recitation that includes restarting, by a programmable device. Applicants further submit that one skilled in the art would understand restarting, by a programmable device as recited in Claims 1 and 21. Specifically, the specification describes, for example, on page 13, Claim 18, "computer displays a computer generated screen with a selectable Power Builder function". The specification, further describes, for example, on page 13, Claim 17,"A computer programmed to generate screens for the selected devices." The specification, also describes, for example, on page 14, claim 30, "wherein said step of generating main menu screens further comprises the steps of...restarting the project". The specification, further describes, for example, in paragraph 30, "By selecting generating screens tab 234, the Power Builder automatically creates the points associated with the selected devices. In addition, a main menu screen is generated...A configuration update is performed and the project is restarted." The specification, describes, for example, in paragraph 44, "PMCS Power Builder 322 interfaces to a main menu screen to read a small faceplate for each configured PMCS device for a small faceplate file...and adds it to main menu file 332." Specifically, the specification describes a computer, which is a programmable electronic device, that displays a computer generated screen with a Power Builder function. The specification also describes that the computer generates screens for selected devices, where generating main menu screens includes restarting the project. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1 and 21 particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter the Applicant regards as the invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1 and 21 satisfy Section 112, second paragraph.

Claims 2-6 and 31-33 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2-6 and 31-33 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicant requests that the rejection of Claims 2-6 and 31-33 under Section 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Claims 22-29 and 38-39 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 21. When the recitations of Claims 22-29 and 38-39 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 21, Applicant requests that the rejection of Claims 22-29 and 38-39 under Section 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1-6, 21-29, 31-33, and 38-39 under Section 112, second paragraph be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1-29 and 31-39 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Salas et al. (U.S. Patent 5,862,391) is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action states on page 3, "Accordingly, Salas et al. do not describe or suggest restarting, by a programmable device...Nowhere in the specification it discloses the feature as claimed, or that could be read as such in the limitation as Applicant's argued. The specification mentions only a Power Builder that facilitates additions and is configured for creating points associated with selected devices...Given the broad interpretation of this limitation in light of the specification, Salas discloses "restarting, by a programmable device, the project after at least one of adding, deleting, and changing said devices" as recited in Claim 1 and in such manners in Claims 1, 7, 17, 21." Applicant respectfully traverse the statement on page 3 of the Office Action. Specifically, Applicant respectfully traverses, "Given the broad interpretation of this limitation in light of the specification, Salas discloses "restarting, by a programmable device, the project after at least one of adding, deleting, and changing said devices" as recited in Claim 1 and in such manners in Claims 1, 7, 17, 21". Applicant respectfully submits that, as explained before with reference to the Section 112 rejections, the specification including the figures disclose "restarting, by a programmable device,". Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the broad reasonable interpretation of Claims 1, 7, 17, and 21 in light of the specification.

Salas et al. describe a power management control system in which a plurality of power monitoring and control devices are coupled to a computer through a common bus (column 1, lines 5-10). After configuration of the devices is set, a

SERVER button is selected on a SERVER WINDOWS APPLICATION--SERVER screen generating a menu from which RUN is selected, bringing the server on-line and disabling the configuration option (column 24, lines 16-20). From the menu generated by the SERVER button on the SERVER WINDOWS APPLICATION-- SERVER screen, SUSPEND PROTOCOL is selected, which allows suspension of a protocol for purposes of analysis (column 24, lines 20-24). Once protocol analysis is completed, the menu generated by the SERVER button on the SERVER WINDOWS APPLICATION--SERVER screen displays a RESUME PROTOCOL, which is selected to resume protocol (column 24, lines 24-29). CPLMeterWFDataltem is a collection of `n` samples read from one of the devices, with a number of samples and sample's start address are read from an application's .INI file (column 20, lines 13-16). When a server of the system is not running, a user can configure the system using configuration menu commands (column 25, lines 19-21). A dynamic data exchange (DDE) server within the system starts up, reads configuration data from disk and initializes all other objects (column 25, lines 31-32).

Claim 1 recites a method for adding devices to a power management control system, the method comprising the steps of "prompting a user to create a project; prompting the user to add devices to the project; executing a file to automatically configure the devices; generating screens for the devices added to the project; automatically updating a configuration of at least one of the devices and the screens; and restarting, by a programmable device, the project after at least one of adding, deleting and changing said devices."

Salas et al. do not describe or suggest a method for adding devices as recited in Claim 1. Specifically, Salas et al. do not describe or suggest restarting, by a programmable device, the project after at least one of adding, deleting and changing the devices. Rather, Salas et al. describe selecting a run button after configuration of the devices is set, bringing the server on-line by selecting the run button, disabling the configuration option by selecting the run button, and reading, from a .INI file, a number of samples read from one of the devices. Salas et al. also describe configuring a system using configuration menu commands when a server of the system is not running. Salas et al. further describe starting up of a dynamic data exchange (DDE) server, reading, by the DDE server, of configuration data from disk,

6

and initializing, by the DDE server, of all other objects. Accordingly, Salas et al. do not describe or suggest restarting, by a programmable device, the project after at least one of adding, deleting and changing the devices. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Salas et al.

Claims 2-6 and 31-33 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2-6 and 31-33 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that Claims 2-6 and 31-33 likewise are patentable over Salas et al.

Claim 7 recites a power control management system comprising "a control computer; at least one intelligent end device interfaced to said control computer for controlling and monitoring power; and a software package comprising a user interface, an applications layer, an operating system and a Power Builder for facilitating automated addition and configuration of user selected intelligent end devices to said power management control system, said Power Builder configured to build external applications onto a power management control project framework, automatically create points associated with said selected intelligent end devices, generate main menu screens for said selected intelligent end devices, and restart a project to which said at least one intelligent end device is added after at least one of adding, deleting and changing said at least one intelligent end device, wherein said software package is configured to automatically update a configuration of at least one of said selected intelligent end devices, said points, and said screens."

Salas et al. do not describe or suggest a power control management system as recited in Claim 7. Specifically, Salas et al. do not describe or suggest a Power Builder configured to restart a project to which the at least one intelligent end device is added after at least one of adding, deleting and changing at least one intelligent end device. Rather, Salas et al. describe selecting a run button after configuration of the devices is set, bringing the server on-line by selecting the run button, disabling the configuration option by selecting the run button, and reading, from a .INI file, a number of samples read from one of the devices. Salas et al. also describe configuring a system using configuration menu commands when a server of the system is not running. Salas et al. further describe starting up of a dynamic data

7

exchange (DDE) server, reading, by the DDE server, of configuration data from disk, and initializing, by the DDE server, of all other objects. Accordingly, Salas et al. do not describe or suggest a Power Builder configured to restart a project after at least one of adding, deleting and changing at least one intelligent end device. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 7 is submitted to be patentable over Salas et al.

Claims 8-16 and 34-35 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 7. When the recitations of Claims 8-16 and 34-35 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 7, Applicants submit that Claims 8-16 and 34-35 likewise are patentable over Salas et al.

Claim 17 recites a computer programmed to "prompt a user to create a project; prompt the user to select devices to be added to the project; configure the selected devices; generate screens for the selected devices; automatically update a configuration of at least one of the selected devices and the screens; and restart the project after at least one of adding, deleting and changing the selected devices."

Salas et al. do not describe or suggest a computer as recited in Claim 17. Specifically, Salas et al. do not describe or suggest a computer programmed to restart the project after at least one of adding, deleting and changing the selected devices. Rather, Salas et al. describe selecting a run button after configuration of the devices is set, bringing the server on-line by selecting the run button, disabling the configuration option by selecting the run button, and reading, from a .INI file, a number of samples read from one of the devices. Salas et al. also describe configuring a system using configuration menu commands when a server of the system is not running. Salas et al. further describe starting up of a dynamic data exchange (DDE) server, reading, by the DDE server, of configuration data from disk, and initializing, by the DDE server, of all other objects. Accordingly, Salas et al. do not describe or suggest a computer programmed to restart the project after at least one of adding, deleting and changing the devices. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 17 is submitted to be patentable over Salas et al.

Claims 18-20 and 36-37 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 17. When the recitations of Claims 18-20 and 36-37 are considered in

combination with the recitations of Claim 17, Applicants submit that Claims 18-20 and 36-37 likewise are patentable over Salas et al.

Claim 21 recites a method for facilitating automated addition and configuration of user selected devices to a power management control system, the method comprising the steps of "building an external application onto a project framework, wherein said building comprises: automatically configuring components associated with devices; generating main menu screens for the devices; and automatically updating a configuration of at least one of the components and the devices; and restarting, by a programmable device, a project to which the devices are added after at least one of adding, deleting and changing the devices."
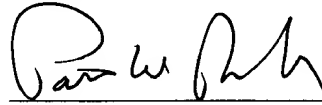
Salas et al. do not describe or suggest a method for facilitating automated addition and configuration of user selected devices as recited in Claim 21. Specifically, Salas et al. do not describe or suggest restarting, by a programmable device, a project to which the devices are added after at least one of adding, deleting and changing the devices. Rather, Salas et al. describe selecting a run button after configuration of the devices is set, bringing the server on-line by selecting the run button, disabling the configuration option by selecting the run button, and reading, from a .INI file, a number of samples read from one of the devices. Salas et al. also describe configuring a system using configuration menu commands when a server of the system is not running. Salas et al. further describe starting up of a dynamic data exchange (DDE) server, reading, by the DDE server, of configuration data from disk, and initializing, by the DDE server, of all other objects. Accordingly, Salas et al. do not describe or suggest restarting, by a programmable device, a project after at least one of adding, deleting and changing the devices. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 21 is submitted to be patentable over Salas et al.

Claims 22-29 and 38-39 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 21. When the recitations of Claims 22-29 and 38-39 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 21, Applicants submit that Claims 22-29 and 38-39 likewise are patentable over Salas et al.

9

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 102 rejection of Claims 1-29 and 31-39 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patrick W. Rasche
Registration No. 37,916
ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP
One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600
St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740
(314) 621-5070